

EVERYTHING
CHANGES,
EVERYTHING
STAYS THE
SAME

OH! Artwalk, Moonstone Lane,
SAW2026



TRAINING OVERVIEW



Neighbourhood Historical Context – Moonstone Lane Estate from pre-colonial to the present. (By Aria)

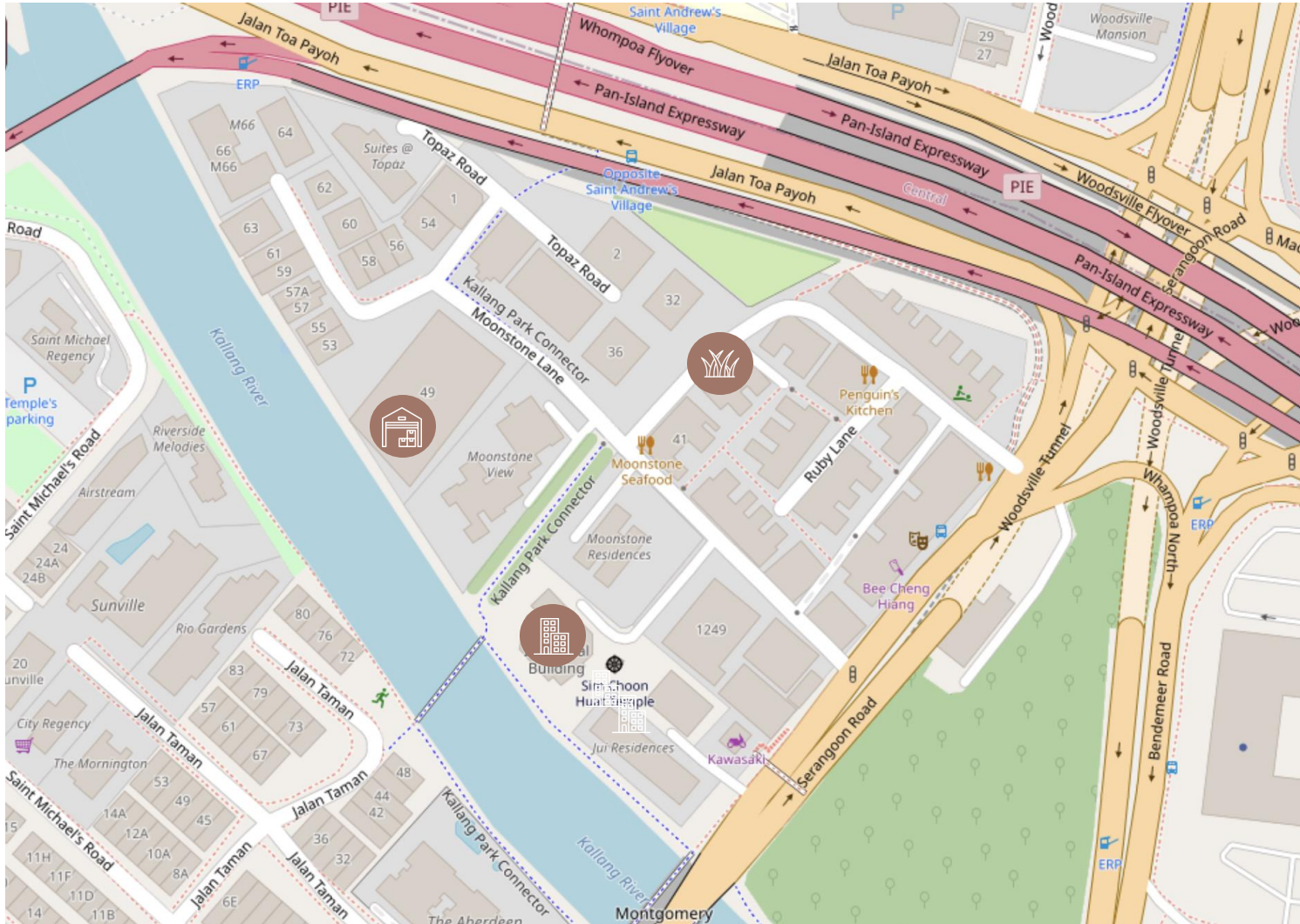


Curatorial Framework – Key concepts behind “*Everything Changes, Everything Stays the Same*”. (By John)



Volunteer Role & Visitor Interaction (By Cal)

MOONSTONE LANE ESTATE



21 Moonstone Lane



Poh Leng Building

- MuYi
- Daily DieCast

49 Moonstone Lane



- Warehouse

33 Opal Crescent



- Grass Patch

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Original Demographic – Kallangdale (-1866)



Orang Kallang Settlements



Map of Kallangdale Sugar Estate

- The Orang Biduanda Kallang (aka Orang Kallang) were the first settlers along the Kallang River
- William Montgomerie started Kallangdale, a large-scale sugar plantation

2. Woodsville Estate



Woodsville Close, 1983

- Woodsville Estate was started by Robert Carr Woods when he built a large estate there in 1866.
 - First editor of The Straits Times
 - Died in 1875, and Woodsville Close was named after him

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3. Kampong Marican



Kampong Marican Islamic School

- In 1919, Pana Abdul Kader (P.A.K.) Marican purchased Woodsville Estates.
 - A businessman from Penang
- A friend of Marican then set up a Mosque and a Madrasah

4. Current-Day



1957 Article

- Four roads within Woodsville Estate were named Moonstone Lane, Opal Crescent, and Topaz Road.
- Bungalows were being built around the 1950s, and the existing homes struggled due to this.

SITES

Warehouse



Picture of warehouse

- In 1949, Bachoo Singh bought the land and built a warehouse storing imports like jute and grain
- In 1953, the warehouse was surrendered to the British to stockpile rice in Singapore.

Keramat



49 Moonstone Lane Keramat

- The keramat belongs to a woman named Syarifah Zainah Alhabshi
- Great Granddaughter of Habib Noh, the renowned healer and also a direct descendent of Prophet Muhammad.

SITES

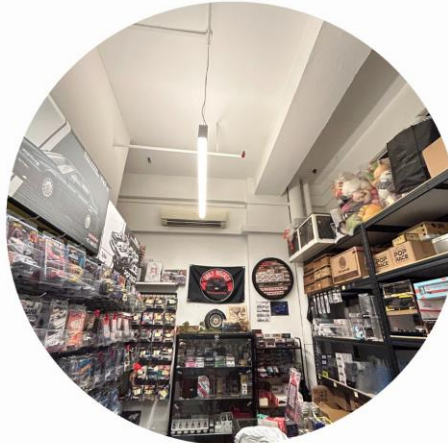
Poh Leng Building



2007 Picture of Poh Leng Building

- Built in 2004, Poh Leng Building is named after Seow Poh Leng

Daily DieCast



- Founded in 2019, Daily Diecast began as a small retailer for collectors of miniature cars in Singapore.
- Specialises in 1:64 scale diecast models from brands like Hot Wheels.

MuYi



- Founded in 2020, MuYi offers carpentry, renovation works and interior design services

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

In Singapore, the landscape is in constant flux. Buildings are demolished and rebuilt, warehouses converted into residences, schools repurposed, shrines displaced, factories dissolved into memory. Urban planners call this a “Change of Use” – the reclassification of land and property for new functions. But beyond the bureaucratic register, it describes the lived condition of the city: a perpetual cycle of adaptation, renewal, and erasure, where fragments of the past survive amidst the architectures of the present.

Moonstone Lane Estate is a site where these processes are written most vividly. Once marked by plantations, kampungs, warehouses, bottling plants, and religious sites, the neighbourhood has been reshaped across generations into the residential precinct it is today. Every shift has altered its function, yet each new layer carries traces of what came before. It is a place where transformation and continuity are entwined.

Everything Changes, Everything Stays the Same unfolds as four solo exhibitions dispersed across the estate, connected by a walking tour. The walk guides visitors through an environment shaped by centuries of redevelopment, while the exhibitions inscribe contemporary voices into its ongoing story. Rather than having each artwork illustrate history, the project stages encounters between artworks and the place: a dialogue that reflects the cycles of land use and the rhythms of human experience.

The presentation’s format itself mirrors the logic of the estate: spaces redefined, their roles expanded. In moving through these shifting contexts, visitors experience not only the works on view, but also the paradox of the estate itself: that in a city where everything changes, some things – the spectres of memory, texture, atmosphere – still remain.

WHY MOONSTONE LANE?

Moonstone Lane Estate has experienced multiple waves of transformation:

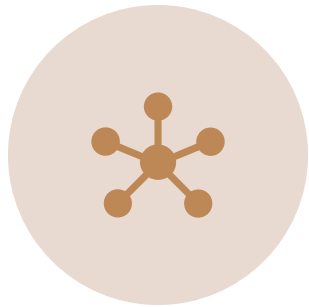
- Indigenous communities displaced (Orang Kallang)
- Plantations → kampungs → industrial warehouses → residential blocks
- Religious sites embedded into industrial structures (e.g. keramat inside warehouse walls)
- National Aerated Water Factory → last remaining industrial icon → conservation debates

The estate is not a preserved heritage site. It is an ordinary neighbourhood layered with history.

- Yet, it the site represented an interesting mixed-use precinct a blend of residential and industrial, new buildings and old, as well as varying architectural styles within a relatively small area.

Ideal ground for examining transformation and continuity in Singapore.

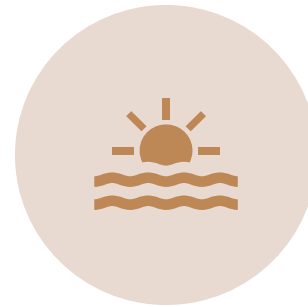
CORE IDEAS



THEME EXPLORES HOW SINGAPORE'S LANDSCAPE IS IN CONSTANT TRANSFORMATION.



URBAN REDEVELOPMENT LEADS TO DEMOLITION, REPURPOSING, AND “**CHANGE OF USE**” OF LAND AND BUILDINGS.



DESPITE PHYSICAL CHANGE, TRACES OF THE PAST – MEMORIES, MATERIALS, AND ATMOSPHERES – ARE STILL PRESENT.



THE MOONSTONE LANE ARTWALK INVESTIGATES THE TENSION BETWEEN CHANGE AND CONTINUITY.



SINGAPORE'S URA MASTER PLAN IN BRIEF

1. The **Master Plan** is Singapore's statutory land-use plan that guides physical development over the next 10–15 years.
2. Reviewed every five years, it ensures land use keeps pace with population, economy, and lifestyle changes.
3. It translates national strategies into **specific zoning and plot-ratio guidelines** for every parcel of land.
4. The plan balances needs for **housing, industry, green space, transport, and heritage** within limited land.
5. Current planning themes emphasise:
 - **A healthy and liveable city**
 - **Sustainable growth** and climate resilience
 - **Integration of nature and heritage** in urban design

WHAT IS CHANGE OF USE?

- “Change of Use” is a formal planning term used by URA (Urban Redevelopment Authority).
- It refers to reclassifying a building or land for a different function (e.g., warehouse → residence, school → church).
- The curatorial project expands this term beyond bureaucracy:
 - Treats it as a lived experience – how communities adapt, relocate, or disappear.
 - Looks at emotional and cultural consequences, not just policy changes.

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/ URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (URA) / CHANGE OF USE APPROVAL

e Approval

Apply for Change of Use Approval

Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)

Apply on GoBusiness Dashboard ↗

Click “Apply on GoBusiness Dashboard”

Application Details

If you want to change the use of a property (e.g. from a shop to a restaurant or a restaurant to a pub), you may need to apply for planning permission for Change of Use from URA. Please note that Land Betterment Charge (LBC) may be collected by S. For more information on LBC, please visit [SLA's website](#) ↗.

- For SLA's properties tenanted out for interim uses or HDB's commercial premises, you are required to seek consent from SLA and HDB, respectively. Application to URA is required if the proposal falls under one of the allowable uses. For more information, please refer to [Circular No : URA/PB/2015/05-DCG](#) ↗ for SLA properties and [Circular No : URA/PB/2011/05-DCG](#) ↗ for HDB commercial premises.
- However, if your proposal is on vacant land or involves new structures or substantial works to existing buildings, you will need to apply for planning permission for New Development or Addition/Alteration from URA by submitting a Development Application Form (DAF) on CORENET. The proposed change of use of the land/building can be incorporated into the DAF. For more information please visit [URA's website](#) ↗.



ART AND THE (SP/PL)ACE

- Artworks respond to existing (sp/pl)aces – not white cube galleries.
- Site is treated as an active participant, not a backdrop.
- Each artwork speaks to its location's past and present functions.

SPACE VS PLACE: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

<u>Term</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>In Moonstone Artwalk Context:</u>
Space	A physical, measurable area; abstract, without personal or cultural attachment	E.g. staircase landing, carpark void, warehouse interior
Place	Space that has been given meaning through memory, experience, history, or identity	E.g. same staircase, but also where residents sat, waited, heard stories, witnessed changes

KEY THEMES

Transformation (Change)

- Land reclassified, buildings demolished, functions reassigned.
- Example: Sugar estate → kampong → soda factory → residences.

Continuity (Staying the Same)

- Certain elements remain: road names, keramat walls, industrial façades, memories.

Spectral Presence

- What is no longer visible, but still sensed – a “ghost layer” of the city.

Everyday vs Monumental

- What is everyday? What is Monumental?



HOW THE THEME SHAPES THE EXHIBITION

Instead of placing artworks in a white space, artists respond directly to:

- The function of a site (past/present)
- The emotional or social history of the place
- Materials already present – tiles, concrete, cracks, signage

The exhibition format mirrors the estate:

- Spaces are reused and redefined
- Visitors move through active residential/industrial areas, not preserved museum settings

ART AS ENCOUNTER, NOT ILLUSTRATION

"Rather than having each artwork illustrate history, the project stages encounters between artworks and the place: a dialogue that reflects the cycles of land use and the rhythms of human experience."



Artworks are **not used to depict history** or retell events.



Instead, they are placed in real sites to **meet the place as it is.**



The artwork and the site form a **dialogue** – each revealing something about the other.



This encounter reflects:

Cycles of land use

Everyday human rhythms –
work, memory, routine, loss









SINGAPORE'S ART SCENE IS BUILT ON REPURPOSED SPACES.

- City Hall → National Gallery
- Military barracks → Gillman Barracks
- Warehouses → Tanjong Pagar Distripark / STPI
- Power station → The Substation

WHAT'S THE POINT?



Why this matters

- Highlights “Change of Use” as a lived condition, not just an architectural trend
- Encourages visitors to notice history in ordinary spaces, not just formal cultural venues

Moonstone Artwalk extends this logic differently

- It prompts a re-thinking of the novelty of showing art in “everyday spaces” and the notions of site-specificity in artmaking as well.



WHAT THE EXHIBITION IS NOT

- Not a historical documentary or heritage trail.
- Not about presenting a “complete history” of Moonstone Lane.
- Not about nostalgia or romanticising the past.

Instead:

- Art is used to open conversations.
- Sites are chosen because they hold evidence of change, memory, or erasure.
- Visitors are invited to observe and reflect, not just receive information.



RECAP/REFLECTION

- Of everything shared, what is 1 thing of interest to you?
- What is 1 thing you would like to research further?

VOLUNTEER UPDATES: UPCOMING TRAINING

- Makeup Sessions for General Training [New Volunteers]
 - Art 101: 8 November, 10.30am-1pm
 - Facil 101: 9 November, , 10.30am-1.30pm
- Next General Training
 - Art 102: 15/16 November, 10.30am-1.30pm

Next Art Walk Training

- Artwork Content: 29/30 November, 10.30am-1.30pm
- Route Training: 3/4 January 2026, Timing TBC [Not on portal yet]

VOLUNTEER UPDATES: OTHER ADMIN

- Confirmation of roles: First week of Dec
- Indicate event day availabilities: Early to Mid-December
- Event days roster out to volunteers: By 20 December